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HONGKONG, TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1924

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TRANSPORT STRIKE MEDIATION.

**GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION.
NEGOTIATIONS BEING RESUMED.
EARLY LEGISLATION PROMISED.
TRAFFIC CO-ORDINATION ESSENTIAL.**
(Reuter's General Service.)

LONDON, March 24.
The Premier (Mr. MacDonald) accompanied by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Gosling) and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Shaw) met Mr. Ashfield and Mr. Bevin, representatives of the employers and the employees respectively, in the House of Commons, after which it was announced both sides in the transport dispute would resume negotiations at the Ministry of Labour to-morrow.

CONTROL NEEDED.

LONDON, March 24.
With extraordinary promptitude the court of enquiry investigating the London transport strike has issued an interim report stating *inter alia* that nobody has seriously questioned the workers' claim to increased wages.

The crisis has arisen owing to the inability of the various undertakings to earn sufficient to meet the claims.

The report concludes that the only present hope of reopening negotiations between the parties is an undertaking by the Government to press forward legislation placing the metropolitan passenger traffic under co-ordinating control.

RUSH BILL TO-DAY.

LONDON, March 24.
In the House of Commons, replying to a question with regard to the tram strike, Mr. Gosling announced that the Government would introduce the London traffic bill to-morrow and pass it as rapidly as possible.

Mr. MacDonald emphasised that the Government was working its hardest to end the dispute as speedily as possible.

BURNING ALCOHOL.

CARGO STEAMER'S EXPENSIVE FUEL.

SEQUEL TO A GALE.

YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA, March 24.
The steamer "Maria," owned in New York and carrying a cargo of liquor from Havana to St. Pierre, limped into port 24 days late after burning 700 cases of alcohol, valued at \$250,000 as a substitute for coal which was exhausted after a gale had driven the vessel far into the Atlantic.

The crew, who were half-starved, report that the vessel made only four knots with probably the most expensive fuel ever used by a steamer.

TERRIBLE TRAIN SMASH.

PASSENGER COACHES TELESKOPED.

EIGHT PEOPLE KILLED.

MEZ, March 24.
The international express from Ostend to Bale collided with a goods train at Bensdorf during the night.

Eight dead and 11 injured have hitherto been reported.

LATER.
Owing to the terrible mutilation six out of the eight persons killed in the express disaster cannot be identified beyond the fact that two are soldiers, one a postman and one a woman.

It appears that the mail van and two passenger coaches were telescoped.

It is believed other victims are still beneath the wreckage.

LATER.
The collision was due to a mistake in the points switching the express to a side line whither the goods train had been previously diverted.

Heart-rending scenes followed the express crashing at full speed.

INDIA'S POLITICAL TRIALS.

CALCUTTA, March 24.
Bengal Council continues to reject budget item.

To-day it rejected votes aggregating 191 1/2 lakhs, including an appropriation for Ministers' salaries.

NAGPUR, March 24.
Consequent upon the Legislature's rejection of the supply measures, the Governor, Sir Wm. Marris, announced his decision to certify the expenditure as essential for carrying on the administration.

He is restoring practically all the supplies for the reserved department, while in respect of the transferred department he has authorised only the sanction of essential expenditure. Therefore all development schemes will be held up.

He is unable to sanction a reasonable salary for ministers which the Council reduced to two rupees. Therefore he is obliged to take over the transferred administration himself.

It is pointed out that the Legislature's action has deprived the province of urgent developments and a very important advance towards self-government.

HOME MINERS' WAGES.

LONDON, March 24.
In the House of Commons, Mr. MacDonald stated that the Government had not intended to introduce the miners' minimum wage Bill in order to settle the miners' dispute, which the House would be called upon to consider to-morrow.

**CRASH IN THE NIGHT.
CARGO STEAMERS COLLIDE.
EIGHT PEOPLE KILLED.
CAPTAIN REACHES SINKING VESSEL.**
(Reuter's General Service.)

LONDON, March 24.
During the night a collision occurred in the Thames between the Shaw Savill cargo steamer "Matatua" and the United States Line cargo steamer "American Merchant."

The collision resulted in eight persons on the "Matatua" being killed outright in their bunks. Three, who were severely crushed, were taken to hospital.

It is believed the "American Merchant," 7500 tons, on her maiden voyage from New York, crashed into the "Matatua" broadside on off Holfheaven and struck her amidships in the engine room.

The "Matatua" filled quickly but the Captain managed to beach her.

The "American Merchant" was damaged and proceeded to Tilbury with pieces of the "Matatua's" plates hanging to her bow. Her flag was flying half-mast.

**PACIFIC DEFENCE.
SINGAPORE BASE QUESTIONS.**

MINISTERS BOMBARDED.

LONDON, March 24.
In the House of Commons, Commander Bellairs asked in view of the gravity of the issue with regard to the time required to complete the Singapore project in the event of the Government's disarmament negotiations not succeeding, could Mr. MacDonald state the approximate time by which the House could know whether negotiations had been successful or not.

Mr. MacDonald replied that it was not a matter of time but of circumstances. If the circumstances did not change then the loss of time would not be a loss at all. Singapore would become necessary when conditions made it necessary.

DOCK'S LIMITED CAPACITY.

LONDON, March 29.
Numerous questions about the Singapore base continue to be levelled at Ministers in the House of Commons. Replying to the Rt. Hon. Mr. G. Lambert (Labour), the Parliamentary Secretary of the Admiralty (Mr. C. G. Ammon) gave the main details of the proposed £10,000,000 expenditure which he stated did not provide for aeroplane and military defence.

Replying to Commr. Bellairs, Mr. Ammon said the King's dock at Singapore was the only one which would take a cruiser of the "Hawkins" class. It would also take any existing ubulged capital ship, the smaller aircraft carriers, and the projected 10,000-ton cruisers.

It would take nine years from the date orders were given to begin work before the naval base could deal with modern capital ships and aircraft carriers.

AUSTRALIA'S ATTITUDE.

MELBOURNE, March 24.
In response to Mr. MacDonald's inquiry, Mr. Charlton, the Federal Labour leader, has cabled that the Australian Labour Party opposed Mr. Bruce's committing Australia to the Singapore base.

IRISH SHOOTING CRIME.

LONDON, March 24.
In the House of Commons, replying to Mr. Neville Chamberlain (Conservative), the Secretary of Colonies Mr. Thomas, expressed the Government's deepest sympathy with the victims of the cowardly and brutal outrage at Queenstown (Cheers)—their relatives, and their friends.

Mr. Thomas emphasised that the government of every self-governing Dominion was solely responsible for the preservation of law and order within its own territories.

He assured the House that relations between the British troops and the inhabitants of Queenstown had always been very friendly (Cheers.) There had not been the slightest complaint about the conduct of the troops.

The Government was completely confident the Free State Government earnestly desired to track down and bring to justice the perpetrators of the outrage and wipe out a blot on Irish honour.

He was sure the overwhelming majority of Irish were behind the Government against the perpetrators of the crime, which was almost certainly the act of irresponsible individuals with the motive of causing the downfall of the Free State Government by embroiling it with Britain.

[Last week four men opened fire with a machine gun against British soldiers landing at Queenstown on leave.]

BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

LONDON, March 24.
Russia will be represented by a very influential deputation at the Anglo-Russian conference to deal with outstanding questions between the two countries.

The deputation, which is expected to arrive in ample time to open discussions early in April, includes Messrs. Rakovsky and Litvinov. Litvinov is official Soviet agent in Britain. Rakovsky was appointed Provisional plenipotentiary in London of the Soviet Government for England, France, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands. He is a well-known revolutionary and a member of the Politburo.

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Shirts of Cotton or Flannel
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"Protector" Felt Hats
double crown, single brim.
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GIVES THAT DISTINCTIVE EXCELLENCE
TO A COCKTAIL

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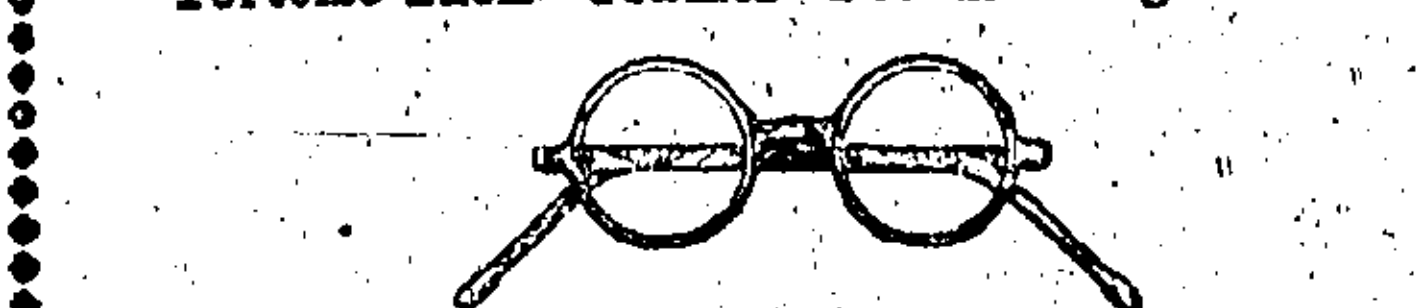
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Optician.

DEATH.

MELLOWS.—On March 21, 1924,
Kate Chiko, wife of Mr. T.
Mellows, ex-Superintendent
of the River Police, aged 50
years.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, MAR. 25, 1924.

A WEEK END.

Uneventful and unexciting may
probably be applied to the period
of a brief respite lasting from
Saturday until Monday. But can
it be said that any day or period
of time is either uneventful or
unexciting. The moments as they
pass have something momentous
for someone or other; something
to think about—probably some-
thing to set upon. Saturday saw
the departure of not a few of
those who have spent the best
part of their lives in Hongkong,
leaving the place doubtless with
many sighs and not a few tears,
looking probably to the place that
has ever been in their thought—
England, with a sense of relief.
Whilst good byes are being said,
or the liner is on its way home,
there is assembled those interest-
ed in one of the biggest financial
undertakings the Colony has
known or dreamt of listening to
a statement of accomplishment in

the past, and the hope for the
future—a distinctly pleasant
horizon. The afternoon is perhaps
no different from the many that
have spelled a brief release from
a week's tedious routine work, or
some piece of work accomplished
that has engaged our earnest
attention. That the Club won its
engagement and thereby the
League may not have been worth
cabling home as a piece of news,
but it brought its satisfaction its
congratulations and its comment,
and thereby achieved a fleeting
fame. We are not quite sure
about it, but it seems all to the
good that whilst we buy plots of
earth, known as Military Lands
for not insignificant sums, we are
content to let a Club given over
to healthy sports keep possession
of quite the best piece of valuable
land in the whole island. A policy
of "lungs" in such a community
and place as ours is very desirable.
But that is a passing thought and
quite apart from the free-free
business-ness of a Saturday and
a week end. The visit of fourteen
Bishops may have been reflected
in the attendance at Church on
Sunday. We cannot say. News
from Home is no more disturbing
than we have a right to expect it
to be. The new Government has
been met with a number of strikes
that we may hope to be forgiven
for saying is very striking. It is
likely to use its soothing
influence in an endeavour to

make ragged paths smooth—and
in that endeavour, most right-
minded men will wish it well. So
far it has done well; it is, strange
as it may seem, idealistic. It
holds, seemingly, that life without
ideals, is nothing, and is prepared
to live by its own conception of
true ideals. That at least is
honest. Unexciting and
uneventful has been the week
end? We hardly think so.

Flowers and Music.

The correspondent whose letter
appears in this issue broaches a
subject which has interested our
pen on more than one occasion.
Briefly, it is open-air music. But
his suggestion is somewhat more
attractive than ours and deserves
more support than it is likely to
receive. Briefly he urges that
there should be Sunday Music in
the Botanical Gardens during the
coming summer. It is an idea
which commands our wholehearted
support. The situation of the
gardens is ideal. There is space
and there is colour—the colour of
the flowers which grace the
botanical gardens. Instead of the
few Europeans who evidently
spend some time amongst the
flowers, crowds would fore-
gather to drink in the music and
to gain refreshment from the riot
of colour which the gardens give.
It only needs a little energy and
enterprise on the part of some
public spirited persons. The
Surrey Band Committee might be
induced to reduce their fee and so
make it possible for the experi-
ment to be tried. Our memory
recalls the visit of the Manila
Police Band of a hundred strong
who filled the gardens with music
of a surpassing quality and
enlivened a delighted and a
diverse crowd of residents. Since
then the only open-air music is
that provided each Tuesday at the
bottom of Garden Road to a very
fortunate officers mess.

\$250,000.

This is no light sum and its
equivalent in good British Ster-
ling, would, for most of us, spell
peaceful retirement and possible
contentment for the rest of our
days. It is the sum which the
Hongkong University is to receive
from the Rockefeller Foundation
to endow a chair in obstetrics in
the Medical Faculty of the Uni-
versity. The gift has at least one
interesting feature about it. We
do not know what are the guiding
principles covering these gifts—
gifts which have been made in
other parts of China—and whether
they are bestowed on medical
objects, which seems to be the
case. Carnegie endowed Libraries
and assisted to build Church
organs during his lifetime and
could see whether benefits accrued
as the result of his gifts. John
Rockefeller bestows a part of his
great wealth in these princely
gifts to Universities in further-
ance of medical ameliorative
effort amongst Chinese, when, one
would have thought the advance-
ment of, say, engineering, would
have been his first thought. It
seems to hinge on the question of
what really is the first need of the
teeming millions of Chinese, or
of the things that are most
pressing. We imagine most
people will applaud these gifts in
the lifetime of the man able to
make them, and the nature of
them as in the case of the Rocke-
feller Foundation. It not only
strengthens the University on its
medical side but at once becomes
a source of benefit to mankind to
which the future will abundantly
testify.

A new season of
IOLANTHE, Gilbert and Sullivan
opera in London is
meeting with the usual success. It
opened with "Iolanthe." For over
40 years the entry to his famous
song in this opera has declared that
"Every boy and every girl, that's
born into this world alive, is either
a little Liberal, or else a little
Conservative." The claim is now
disputed, and rightly so for have
we not a Labour party? There is
work here for a versifier to recast
the lines to bring in the third party.
The nearest we can get our
principle hand to it is—
"Is either a little Liberal, or else
a Labour Conservative."
It is not as neat as Gilbert's, but
then we have had to fit the words
to the music.

GOOD MEN abroad, that
the newspaper man, is
irreligious, given to strong drink,
and stronger language, let it at
once be dispelled. Examples to
bear out a contention that the
pressman is no better than the
should be exist in schools. We
have just heard of a reporter who
attended a colliery official's dinner

being asked to say grace. He said
it. At his next engagement, a
chapel lecture, he was called upon
to pray. He prayed. The explana-
tion of course may be that the man
is young, and not like that one
who when asked by General Booth
if he were "saved," replied—"No,
I'm a reporter."

What are we to
make of this? A
Finsbury padre re-
cently appealed to the licensing
bench to extend the time for
closing public houses from 9 to 10
p.m. on Sundays. He thought 9
p.m. kept men away from church,
whereas if it was 10 p.m. they
could go to church in comfort and
obtain refreshment afterwards.
This seems cruelly if humorously
put. A dry sermon would produce
a "wet" evening evidently. But
we cannot imagine any "pub" in
Finsbury full of church-goers dis-
cussing the sermon over a pint of
four half.

Day by day is the
profession of the
Actor being recog-
nized as that of a high calling. Our
own Colonial Secretary—the one
in London—has just been paying
his tribute to their work. It is
interesting to know there is an
Actors' Theatre Union and that
visiting theatrical companies to
Hongkong are early informed
where St. John's Cathedral is and
the hours of the Services.

It must be a
considerable source of
satisfaction to those interested in what
may be described as the "From
Log Cabin to White House"
movement to hear that of the 249
London County Council school-
children, sons and daughters of
artisan parents who went to
universities during the preceding
four years, eighty per cent passed
with first or second class honours.

Those who desire a
glimpse of condi-
tions in Germany
might very well spend an hour or
two over a book of short stories
called "Defeat" written by
Geoffrey Moss. Moss is an English
Major who knows conditions. He
has not written in any spirit of
vindictiveness or as an act of
propaganda. He would probably
say he has just written a series of
short stories. Those who, in
addition to liking a good story,
desire also style in writing, will
not be disappointed in the book.

The Home Government
means business when it
declares it is not going
to be intimidated by Snap divisions.
Business only is meant and only
where the issue is of national im-
portance will an adverse vote in-
fluence the Government in its
decision either to carry on or resign.

An interesting
topic of debate has
been raised by the
late Mrs. E. J. J.
Tweedy of Truro
who in leaving a mere £14,000,
said:—

"I feel that females are the
more in need of assistance than
males, who have their profes-
sional income, so the share of
each niece shall be double the
share of each nephew."

We wonder if the nephews con-
cerned agree.

Lank in London
has a male voice
choir which sings
at the Lenton Services arranged
by a padre for business houses.
No-one has ever heard of a service
for business men in Hongkong.
It has never been tried.
Perhaps the Bank might help by
forming a male Voice Choir. We
are willing to do our bit and as an
evidence of that offer as a sample,
the first verse in our quartette for
Brother, Merchant, Depositor and
Bank manager. It is in four bars,
½ time (waltzing) and is in the
key of G sharp.

Sing us a song of an overdraft
Of Exchange rates that send
men daff.

And sigh for the Golden shore

we dubbed
them last sum-
mer, not know-
ing what the correct name was.
Now we have discovered it. Our
idea was that the adoption of the
Clay Shirt should be generally
adopted by men during the
summer. We argued that it was
cool-fitted, the neck from the
hotness of a tight collar, and
in a sense added to the appearance.
We said that if only one of our
unofficials would come to his office
in a Clay Shirt, word would go
round and our Mercers would be
beleged with orders. But so far
no one has taken the hint. And
we repeat: We are as repentant as
an invisible sackcloth and ashes can
make us. For our description is
incorrect. It is not a clay shirt,
but a shirt with a byron collar. Now
does that make any difference?
We think so. At any rate, we
are sorry to hear that the summer
is over, and that the Clay Shirt
has not been worn. We are sure
it was a good idea, and we are
sorry it was not carried out.

To-day's Poem.

(Triplet.)
And there is but one sound
As of a bird, singing.
The wood is spell-bound.
And there is but this one sound.
Out of the still ground
Seven gaudy flowers are spring-
ing.
And there is but one sound
As of a bird, singing.
—Roderic F. Leake.

WEATHER CALENDAR.

MARCH 25
1802. A mild morning. William
worked at the Cuckoo poem.
I sewed beside him. . . .
I heard nothing save the
breathing of my Beloved.—
Dorothy Wordsworth.

TO HUMANITY.

What is great, what is inspir-
ing to the actions of public men
belongs not to parties, not to
nations, but to the whole of
humanity.
—Ramsay MacDonald.

SHADOWS BEFORE.

Coming Events Advertised
In The Mail.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

March 25.—Coronet Theatre;
"Fair Lady."
March 25.—Star Theatre;
The Abyssinian Brute, 5.30 p.m.
Kai's Royal Hawaiian Troubadours,
9.15 p.m.
March 25.—World Theatre;
Herbert Rawlinson in "The
Clean-Up."
March 25.—Theatre Royal,
Grand Concert, 9.15 p.m.

April 12.—Public Dinner to Sir
William Ross Davies at Hongkong
Hotel, 8 p.m.
April 3.—St. Andrew's Fete in
the Church Hall and grounds,
Kowloon, 2.30 p.m.

March 27.—Royal Artillery
Athletic Meeting at U.S.B.C.
Ground, Kowloon.
March 28.—Lieut.-Col. W. O. S.
Sanders and officers of the Royal
Artillery "at home" to their
friends, 3 and 6 p.m.

March 29.—H.K. Jockey Club
extra race meeting.
April 2.—Annual Athletic Sports
of the University of Hongkong.

PUBLIC AUCTIONS.
March 25.—Lammert Bros. at
No. 8 Gascoigne Road, Kowloon,
valuable household furniture, 2.30
p.m.

March 25.—At No. 6 Catchick
Street, Kennedy Town, a large as-
sortment of hardware, 10.30 a.m.

COMPANY MEETINGS.
March 27.—Fifty-fifth meeting of
shareholders of the H.K. Fire In-
surance Co., Ltd. at Messrs.
Jardine Matheson's offices, noon.

March 27.—Further extraordi-
nary general meeting of the Hong-
kong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd.,
at Messrs. Jardine Matheson's
Offices, 11 a.m.

March 29.—Ordinary Meeting of
Donkey Steamship Co., Ltd., at
Company's offices 20, Des Voeux
Road, 11 a.m.

March 31.—Forty-sixth annual
meeting of shareholders of the
China Sugar Refining Co., at
Messrs. Jardine Matheson's Offices,
11 a.m.

OTHER MEETINGS.
March 25.—Thirty-eighth yearly
meeting of Members of the Hong-
kong Club, in the Club House, 6.30
p.m., to be followed by an exten-
sive general meeting immediately
afterwards.

March 27.—Third annual general
meeting of the British Legion in the
Board room of Messrs. Jardine
Matheson Ltd., 6.30 p.m.

March 28.—Annual meeting of
Members of the Association of ex-
porters and dealers of Hongkong,
Chartered Bank Building, 4 p.m.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The annual inter-school
athletic sports will be held at
Happy Valley on Friday, March
28. H. E. The Governor will pre-
sent the shield and trophies at the
conclusion of the sports.

A Concert will be given by
the Hongkong Male Voice Choir
at the Helena May Institute on
Tuesday, April 3, at 5.30 p.m.
Tickets \$1 each to be obtained
from the Secretary of the Institute,
and from Members of Committee.
The entire proceeds are to be
devoted to the Children's Fresh
Air Fund.—Advt.

A letter cable from London
states that the British Committee
organizing a movement to help
replace the English books in the
Japanese Imperial University lost
through the earthquake, writes to
the British public, that the British
Government has agreed to make
a grant of £10,000 to the British
Committee in order to provide other
valuable works.

CHINA'S YOUNG IDEA.

WHAT THE "CHIN WOO"
IS DOING.

UNIQUE SHOW AT QUEEN'S
COLLEGE.

Small Chinese boys whirling
huge swords around their heads
and, grotesquely costumed in
clownish rigs, performing a quaint
ballet, Chinese flappers swinging
an equally nimble blade and then
dancing a graceful *pas a deux*—
these were some of the sights seen
in the hall of Queen's College
yesterday afternoon, when pro-
minent members of the Chin Woo
Athletic Association gave a demon-
stration of the form of physical cul-
ture which it is their purpose to
persuade the young idea of China
to take up.

It was altogether a unique show.
The hall was filled with scholars
from Queen's College, who ap-
plauded the performances with
much warmth and members of the
teaching staff, who looked on with
evident interest. Under the
general supervision of Mr. Tang,
a squad of boys kept the small floor
occupying the front "stalls" in a
permanent state of apprehension
by their smartly performed evolu-
tions with a sort of Chinese
claymore and following this came
a vimful exhibition of *kung fu*, or
Chinese boxing.

Mr. Lo Wei-tsung, one of the
directors in Shanghai of the Chin
Woo, who had earlier explained to
the gathering the objects aimed
at by the system of physical culture
the association teaches, proceeded
by demonstrating, with the help of
Mr. Yao Shur-pao a number of
useful holds and grips which
might be used in self-defence.
Clad only in tiger skins they look-
ed a picturesque pair and certainly
proved themselves exceedingly
capable exponents of their art.

But the *piece de resistance*, as far
as the audience was concerned,
was unquestionably the comic
ballet in which half a dozen
Queen's College boys participated.
Dressed as clowns, they wore
absurd masks and their antics
made them appear for all the
world like a collection of mechan-
ical toys. The basic principle
underlying this performance is
that it must be done to music and it
said much for the training of
the youngsters that, owing to
the fact that someone had
lost the key of the cabinet
containing the musician's instru-
ments, they did their "turn"
remarkably well without other
accompaniment than a sort of
sing-song chant by their instructor.
Later when one of the "property"
swords had been requisitioned to
break open the music box, and the
musicians had fished out their
instruments, clamorous demands
for an *encore* were yielded to and
they repeated their quaint per-
formance with added gusto.

How far the modern young
woman of China has succeeded in
overstepping the bounds
previously imposed upon her by
prejudice and tradition may be
gauged from the fact that three
Chinese girls from the Canton
took part in the programme and
followed an exhibition of sword
dancing and *kung fu* with some-
thing rather less martial in the
shape of an elegant minuet with
which their juvenile audience was
obviously, as one of the lady teach-
ers put it, "tickled to death."

As an exhibition of Chinese
Calisthenics the performance was
extremely interesting and the Chin
Woo Association whose motto
appears to be something like "our
own mens sana in corpore sano"
deserve high praise for their
efforts in this way to advance the
physical development of China's
youth. Thanks expressed by the
Headmaster (Mr. B. T. Tanner),
to Mr. Lo Wei-tsung, and cheers
for all concerned ended a highly
entertaining afternoon.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Allighting from a moving tram
in Des Voeux Road, West, yester-
day, a young Chinese, was so
badly injured in the head that he
later died at the Government Civil
Hospital without regaining con-
sciousness.

Manila, March 24.—The Con-
sular authorities have received a report
that the inhabitants of Babuyan
Island, mostly fishermen, are be-
lieved to have been killed by the
volcano eruption on March 1. The
island is sparsely inhabited and
lies in the Northern extremity of
the Luzon volcanic area. The
volcano which burst into eruption
is known as *Sith's Cone*.—*Reuter*.

A huge serpent was found in
the goods carriage of an up train
leaving Kibbe for Takovo, 110
miles away, having been
shipped from the port. Apparently
the train officials did not like to
handle it and it eventually
began to crawl into a passenger
compartment. In the attempt
however, it slipped on a stone
and was killed. It was found
dead in the carriage and it appears
that it was a very large snake.
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dead in the carriage and it appears
that it was a very large snake.

SHARE BOOM.

BIG BUSINESS DO-ES.

RECORD MARCH SETTLEMENT.

Despite dolorous predictions to
the contrary, the March settlement
appears so far to have passed off
without any sensational happen-
ings on the Bialto and the rumours
that certain brokers were likely to
be badly hit do not seem to have
been justified. Having met a week
on so ago to arrange set-offs, the
brokers were well prepared
and most of them seemed
quite happy about the way
things were going.

The March settlement is usually
a fairly heavy one and this year it
has been complicated by the
issue of new capital involved in
the case of several of the com-
panies managed by Messrs. Shewan
Tomes and Company. Ice House
Street was a scene of much activity
this morning, brokers and brokers'
clerks scudding up and down with
bundles of cheques and scrip like
ants on an anthill. One broker who
was interviewed this afternoon, de-
clared that the settlement was
really a record for Hongkong.
He estimated that in Ice House
street alone the business done in-
volved \$50,000,000 and that the
firms who handled it would share
somewhere about \$1,000,000 in
brokerage.

Shares showed a tendency to
rise during the morning but
mostly went back to their normal
level.

"TAI LEE" PIRACY.

FURTHER EVIDENCE
HEARD.

THE PILOT'S STORY.

Further evidence was taken at
the inquiry this afternoon into
the death of Captain Wilcox of
the "Tai Lee" when that ship was
pirated. As at previous sittings,
Mr. R. E. Lindell conducted the
inquiry and the jury comprised
Messrs. H. R. B. Hancock, F. A.
Perry and A. F. B. Silva-Neto, Mr.
W. B. Hind appeared on behalf of
the Coast Officers' and Marine
Engineers' Guilds and Mr. C. G.
Perdue, Assistant Director of
Criminal Intelligence, represented
the Police. Lieut. R. R. Beau-
champ, R.N., sat with the
Coroner.

At the outset His Worship an-
nounced that a letter had been
received from the hospital at Pak-
lai to the effect that Captain
Wilcox made no statement there
and consented to an operation by
a nod of his head. The doctor was
of the opinion that Captain Wil-
cox could not have made a state-
ment.

Chan Ng, No. 1 pilot of the "Tai
Lee" for the past three years,
testified that he was on board on
the night of January 20 (the date
of the piracy) and went on the
bridge at midnight to relieve the
No. 2 pilot. The ship was then at
anchor at Whangmoon. She got
under weigh at 12.30 but no pas-
sengers came on board. When
the ship got under weigh, the
Captain went off duty; witness
took charge of the bridge with the
quartermaster at the wheel. Wit-
ness noticed a man standing near
the dodger on the starboard side
and three men climbed up to the
bridge. At this time the chief
officer was on the side of the
bridge, having come up to relieve
the captain. "Two of these three
men pointed firearms at me while
the third went to the port dodger.
Meanwhile I heard shots fired.
I could not see the chief officer
then. Neither could I recognise
the men around me as it was
dark and raining." Witness was
called bad names and threatened
with being shot unless he kept a
clear look-out ahead and obeyed
all orders. Witness saw none of
the crew about. The boatswain
was not on the bridge and witness
did not see him. Two armed men,
who were strangers to him, re-
mained standing guard over him
while he kept a course in the
direction of Kongmoon. The
strangers instructed him to make
for West Ma Ling; he navigated
the ship accordingly and gave the
necessary orders to the quarter-
master. At the place indicated,
he was ordered to slow down and
then go astern. Witness was
told to stop the ship and the
anchors dropped. On leaving the
pilot told witness that he was
not to move till he heard a whistle
from the shore, when there would
be no more firing. He did not see
the boats being lowered but saw
two of the ship's boats and two
other boats being rowed ashore at
4 o'clock. He ultimately heard a
mouth-whistle from the shore.
(Proceeding.)

The open doubles tennis match
(third round) between Mr. D. G. O.
Ramsbottom and Mr. K. A. M. O.
Ramsbottom was played on Wed-
nesday afternoon at the Victoria
Club. The match was played on
the grass courts and was a very
close contest. The score was 6-4,
6-3, 6-4 in favour of Mr. D. G. O.
Ramsbottom. The match was
played for a prize of £100 and
was a very interesting one. The
players were both very good and
the match was a very close one.
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was a very interesting one. The
players were both very good and
the match was a very close one.

NEW COAST STEAMER.

BUILT BY THE HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK CO.

LAUNCHING TO-MORROW.

The single screw steamer "Lien Shing" built at the Kowloon establishment of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd. for the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. for service between Shanghai and Tientsin will be launched to-morrow at 11.45 a.m.

The principal dimensions are:—Length overall 390 ft.; length between perpendiculars 285 ft.; breadth moulded 44 ft.; depth moulded 22 ft. The vessel is of the two deck type with poop and bridge, connected by a shade deck, top-gallant forecastle and boat decks aft and amidships. She is constructed to Lloyd's requirements under special survey for their highest class, and the fore end is specially strengthened to withstand encounter with ice.

Cargo Handling.

Cargo is carried in the forward and after holds and also in a deep tank situated abaft the machinery space. The facilities for working the cargo are of the most modern description, twin masts and four winches being fitted at each hatch worked on the Pluett system. The forward winches are constructed to couple in pairs for lifting heavy loads and a wall-type winch is installed at the hatches for deep tank cargo. Water ballast of fresh water is carried in the peaks while the double bottom is suitable for oil fuel, if required, as well as ballast.

The rudder is controlled from the bridge, as in the two previous ships built for this Company, by the McTaggart Scott system of Telemotor gear which is led to Hatties steam steering gear situated in the poop and directly connected to the rudder head.

A powerful Clarke Chapman steam windlass and warping capstan is fitted for working the anchors and cables while a stream anchor, housed aft, has a special small steam windlass for quick handling in narrow waters.

Passenger Accommodation.

The bridge deck is entirely devoted to passengers, having accommodation for twenty-eight first class in two-berth rooms. The first class state-rooms are large and roomy, fitted with wash basins having a direct supply of hot and cold water from a large tank on the casing top. Lavatory accommodation is on a generous scale and all the fittings are of the latest pattern. The public rooms consist of dining room, lounge and smoke room, which are handsomely paneled and upholstered in the best material. Accommodation is provided for 56 second class passengers in the bridge 'tween decks and poop while a limited number of 3rd class rooms are situated in the after 'tween decks. The Captain and Wireless Officers are accommodated on the boat deck forward while the Engineers and Officers are housed in a steel house on the poop. The vessel is electrically lighted throughout and fans are provided in all the public, passenger and officers' rooms. Steam heating is also installed to provide additional comfort in winter.

Propelling machinery constructed by the builders is placed amidships and consists of one set of triple expansion surface condensing engines with four cranks, balanced on the Yarrow Schlick and Tweedy system, having cylinders, 24"—40"—48"—48"—42" stroke steam at 190 lbs. per square inch working pressure, is generated in three single ended Scotch boilers working under Howden's forced draught, 14'9" diameter x 11'6" long. A Mitchell thrust block of the latest design is fitted. The engine and boiler room auxiliaries include: Weir's pumps and heater, a Paul's independent centrifugal circulating pump; also a Paul's centrifugal ballast pump for quick discharge of deep tank, together with the usual general service, ballast and fresh water and See's Ash Ejector pump. A See's Ash Ejector is fitted in the stockhold for the disposal of ashes.

ABANDONED.

"HEUNGSHAN" SALVAGE IMPOSSIBLE.

Considered now to be practically unsalvageable, the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company's s.s. "Heungshan," which was stranded near Canton on February 29, has been abandoned to the underwriters. She will probably be auctioned as she now lies at Lark's Point (Kellett Reach) in the Blenheim passage, Canton River.

The "Heungshan" thus disappears from the Canton run after a great many years during which she has achieved much popularity. Built in 1890 by Messrs. Ramo and Ferguson, of Leith, she is a vessel of 1014 gross tons and her length is 290 feet.

ADMITTING JAPANESE.

AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION LAWS.

(Reuter's American Service.)

Washington, March 24.

The House of Representatives Immigration Committee has submitted a formal report on the Johnson immigration bill.

The committee holds the opinion that cancellation of the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" with Japan is justified.

The committee agrees to give wider latitude for admission of Japanese coming to the United States for business purposes, but declines to yield its contention that aliens generally who are ineligible for citizenship should not be permitted to enter.

SENATE OIL INQUIRY.

WITNESSES WITHHOLD EVIDENCE.

Washington, March 24.

With a view to having Mr. Sinclair, the oil magnate, adjudged guilty of contempt, the Senate has decided to certify to the United States Attorney his refusal to answer questions before the oil committee.

Another witness who refused to be examined is Mr. Chase, son-in-law of Mr. Fall, the former Secretary of the Interior.

[Sinclair refused to give evidence, reserving his testimony for the courts.]

EXPERT CHESS.

New York, March 24.

The three Russians led to the end of the fifth round in the chess tournament. Bogubujow and Tartakower with 3½ each, and Alekhin with 2½.

Capablanca, Reti and Yates had two each.

Dr. Libater and Janowski had two each, with one game adjourned. Marshall, Edward Lasker and Maroczy had 1½ each.

[In the sixth round Capablanca beat Tartakower of Russia after fifty-one moves.]

FEEDING THE STARVING.

Washington, March 24.

The House of Representatives passed a resolution to appropriate \$10,000,000 for the purchase of foodstuffs for women and children in Germany.

HOCKEY TOUR.

New York, March 24.

The American women's hockey team which has returned from Europe spoke highly of their British opponents' play.

The only victory gained by the American team was in Paris.

MORE SCANDALS?

Washington, March 24.

The House of Representatives passed a resolution authorizing investigation of the air craft industry of the United States; also the Army, Navy, Postal and Air Services.

GOES TO JAIL.

New York, March 24.

Counsel for Anderson, the anti-saloon leader convicted of graft, having failed to secure a certificate of "reasonable doubt" from the Supreme Court announces that his client surrenders to serve a term in Sing Sing.

It is estimated that Anderson's sentence may be reduced about nine months if he gets full allowance for good conduct.

LAWN TENNIS.

Paris, March 24.

A meeting of the International Lawn Tennis Federation decided to admit Japan as a member of the Federation with four votes.

Rumania was also admitted. Applications from Austria and Hungary were postponed, but the ban against members of the Federation playing representatives from Austria and Hungary was raised.

TALKING TO A KINGDOM.

London, March 24.

The whole country will listen to the King's speech at the opening of the Exhibition on April 28. The speech will be delivered directly into a microphone and broadcast from all stations.

GENERALS' DUEL.

Buenos Aires, March 24.

General Justo, Minister of War, and General Delleplaine, Commander of the Garrison, fought a duel. Both were seriously wounded. The Minister's criticism of the Army caused the quarrel.

COMMERCE AND FINANCE.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

In addition to the quotations given on page 11 as usual, the following should be noted:—

Hongkong Stock Exchange:—H.K. Hotels ex rights \$8 div. 2034 nomi. rights \$8 premium buyers.

Cements ex rights \$28 sellers rights 694 prem. buyers. Ropes ex rights and bonus \$27 nominal, rights \$3 prem. buy. Bonus shares \$27 nominal.

Providents.—The rates of \$23 old issue quoted up to and including Monday, 24th March 1924 should have been cum bonus ex rights.

Hongkong Developments \$115 buyers.

China Buses \$10.10 buyers.

NAM PAK HONG QUOTATIONS.

This morning's Nam Pak Hong quotations for "spot" goods, basis usual guild terms, were as follows:—

Java sugar, average quality, per picul, net:—No. 24 rough white \$13.70, No. 24 fine white \$15.80, No. 18 rough brown \$13.70, Java brown \$13.50.

Rice, average quality, per picul gross for net:—No. 1 Siam long white \$7.80, No. 1 Saigon long white \$7.50.

Flour, per sack of 50 lbs.:—White Greens \$2.60, Nutmeg Orange \$2.68, Sperry's XXX \$3.46, Kingfisher \$2.83, Maize \$2.55, Big Gun \$2.75, Globe \$2.55, Old Mill \$2.55, Reindeer \$2.63, Melon \$2.63, White Rose \$2.55, C. & C. \$2.68, Dayton \$2.68, Banana \$2.55, Kwan Tao \$2.55.

KELANTAN GOLD MINE REPORT.

SINGAPORE, March 24.

The directors of the Kelantan Gold Mine have received a report indicating that the predictions of the first manager need reconsideration. A general meeting is being called.

BOMBAY COTTON.

BOMBAY, March 24.

Work has been resumed in all except eight cotton mills.—Reuter.

UNITED STATES STEEL.

New York, March 24.

The annual statement of the United States Steel Corporation for the year ending December 31, 1923 shows net earnings of \$128,177,000 and a surplus of net income of \$54,260,000. Dividends to be paid are 7 per cent. on the Preferred and 5 per cent. on the Common Stock.—Reuter's American Service.

GERMAN INDUSTRIES.

DUESSELDORF, March 24.

The output of the Ruhr mines amounts to 102 per cent. and the coal-crops 82 per cent., as compared with the figures for 1923.

71,000 railwaymen have re-enlisted.

The February Customs Duties and special licences yielded 24 millions of gold marks, thus permitting an estimate of 800 millions as the total receipts for 1924.—Reuter.

A SIAMESE LOAN.

LONDON, March 23.

The flotation of a Siamese Loan is expected early this week. The amount will probably be \$3,000,000 bearing 6 per cent., the issuing price being 104.—Reuter.

TIN SLUMPS AGAIN.

LONDON, March 24.

Tin this morning slumped \$20 to \$299. There was heavy American selling.—Reuter.

CHINA'S CUSTOMS.

LONDON, March 24.

In the House of Commons, reply to Dr. W. A. Chubb (Labour), Mr. MacDonald stated that the Chinese request to hold a preliminary conference to discuss matters relating to the increase of 21 per cent. in the customs duties in accordance with the Washington treaty had just been received and was being enquired into.—Reuter.

HAMBURG STRIKE OVER.

HAMBURG, March 24.

The dock strike has been settled.—Reuter.

NEW CANADIAN TRADE.

MONTREAL, March 24.

A number of German immigrants arrived here during the week-end and twenty export German toy makers with their families are expected shortly in connection with the proposal to start a local toy factory.—Reuter's American Service.

SILK.

The Silk, shipped per s.s. "President Jefferson," which sailed from this port on February 29 at 10 a.m. arrived at New York on March 18, 1924, having been 23 calendar days in transit.

HONGKONG'S PRODIGY.

MASTER EMIL DANANBERG AT MACAO.

(By "Keyboard")

It was my pleasure to see on Sunday that young prodigy, Master Emil Danenberg, who not so very long ago thrilled Hongkong with a wonderful performance on the piano.

His hazel and dreamy eyes betrayed no sign whatever of musical talents much less any excitement at having to appear before the high and low of Macao. I could hardly believe it. A tiny tot of no more than six summers' able to play and master so many classical pieces of the world's greatest music in so short a time (6 months), with so much expression and ease and all from memory.

I tried to talk seriously with him at first. But he just turned shyly away towards his sister, who though unable to master the keyboard, hums most of "Jimmy's songs."

By acting and speaking childishly I got into conversation with him, but not for long. It was evident that he was more at home with Gerty (his sister). Soon Macao was sighted and for once his excitement was aroused: "A La Macao" he shouted in the middle of his tiffin. That was the last I heard of him; my regret was that the early departure of the steamer prevented me from witnessing his performance at the Macao Hotel.

I was told however that he scored another success, having played for two hours to a vast audience, who sat in thrilled silence and secret admiration. It is certain that the people of Macao had much more than their money's worth, judging from the demands for encores. At the conclusion, and after that memorable applause had subsided, the Governor's tiny daughter tottered up on to the platform with a beautiful bouquet of flowers as large as herself and a box of chocolates as pretty as that simple scene. Then came the Governor and Madame Rodrigues and their ADC to shake Master Emil by the hand. For all that he was calm and it was thought that he was more eager to open that box of chocolates than surrendering his tiny hands to be shaken.

THE BEGGAR'S OPERA.

A ONE ACT FARCE NEAR BROKER'S ALLEY.

No, he wouldn't be flustered. He simply refused to budge. The tattered and disreputable specimen of humanity that begged alms from the passer-by was not to be coerced from his place on the pavement and Ice House Street was in a flutter this morning over it. It took a squad of Chinese and Sikh policemen to persuade him and then the miserable mendicant got the better of the argument. He declined the honour of a ricksha, turned up his nose at the stateliness and dignity of the chair, and preferred his corner on the kerb. They pushed him, shoved him, tickled him, tied him up with bits of string, rolled him over and prodded at him, but no, he was adamant. It was indeed a beggar's opera and for nearly an hour the performance amused the quickly increasing audience. He was a repellent figure with his festering sores and infected leg but was implacable. For once it looked as if the Police had failed. Until lo! A young and handsome foreign policeman came upon the scene. He bent down, said four or five words in some mysterious tongue and hey presto! the beggar was on his feet. How was it done? What were those magic words?

ARMS IN SACKS.

Two sacks containing 9,670 rounds of ammunition, which were found on board the s.s. "Angkor" have been handed over to the Water Police.

This morning's Police report states that the discovery was made by the chief steward of the ship but no other details are given.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

BILLIARD.

HO KOM TONG CUPS.

PALACE HOTEL.

THE Entry for the Ho Kom Tong's Billiard Handicap, to be held at the Palace Hotel, has been postponed until 9th July, 1924, to enable the Championship Competition to be completed.

Hongkong, 25th March, 1924.

LAMBERT BROS. Auctioneers.

on TUESDAY, 1st April, 1924, commencing at 11 a.m.

at Godown No. 1 (Lower) The Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd. Kowloon (For account of the concerned)

100 Tons Saltpetre of Ammonia (Long Crystals—English)

Terms:—Cash on delivery.

LAMBERT BROS. Auctioneers.

on TUESDAY, 1st April, 1924, commencing at 2.45 p.m.

at "Chester's Bungalow," North No. 86, Nathan Road, Kowloon

A Quantity of Valuable Household Furniture, comprising:—

Teak hatstand, chesterfield couch and chairs, tables, brass fenders, brass ornaments, curtains, etc., etc.

Extension dining table, chairs, sideboard with bevelled mirror, dinner Wagon, ice chest, crockery, glass ware, etc., etc.

White metal bedsteads, springs and mattresses, double and single wardrobes with glass doors, chest of drawers, dressing table, washing stand, toilet sets, etc., etc.

And One Yacht Piano, by GRAMER & Co.

Catalogues will be issued.

On View on MONDAY the 31st March 1924.

Terms:—Cash on delivery.

LAMBERT BROS. Auctioneers.

THE Underigned have received instructions from Owners and Underwriters to sell by Public Auction on

on TUESDAY, 1st April, 1924, at Noon.

at their Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, Hongkong

The British River Steamer "Huang Shan"

as she now lies in her present condition in the Canton River, beached opposite Yarkins Point (Kellett Reach) Blenheim Passage.

Terms:—Cash on fall of hammer when the vessel will be at Purchaser's Risk.

LAMBERT BROS. Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 18th March, 1924.

on TUESDAY, 1st April, 1924, commencing at 11 a.m.

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Hongkong, 18th March, 1924.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO PARENTS & GUARDIANS.

Anglo-French Education.

SENIOR MASTER at good Grammar School in England receives in his house a few boys. Good home and every educational advantage. Full particulars and prospectus. Write CAMOUS, HILLSIDE, Monmouth, England.

THE EAST ASIATIC CO., LTD., COPENHAGEN.

The M/S "SIAM"

having arrived. Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that all goods are being landed and placed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., where delivery can be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 1st of April, 1924, will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged goods are to be left in the Godown, where they will be examined by Messrs. Gaddard & Douglas on the 1st April, 1924, at 10 a.m.

All claims against the vessel must be presented to the undersigned before the 4th of April, 1924, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JOHN MANNERS & CO., LTD., Agents.

Hongkong, 25th March, 1924.

on TUESDAY, 1st April, 1924, commencing at 11 a.m.

at their Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, (for account of the concerned)

2060 Bags No. 24 Java White Sugar (stored in Godown No. 14 & 15 Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd.)—Kowloon.

Terms:—Cash on delivery.

LAMBERT BROS. Auctioneers.

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Terms:—Cash on delivery.

LAMBERT BROS. Auctioneers.

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CHAIRMAN'S INTERESTING SURVEY.

How To Stamp Out The Piracy Evil.

MORE NAVAL PATROLS URGENTLY NEEDED.

Many matters vitally concerning the Colony's commercial and general welfare were discussed in the speech delivered by the Chairman of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce at the annual meeting of that body held in the City Hall yesterday afternoon.

Among the more important topics raised were wireless, broadcasting, harbour development, storm signals, opium laws, customs duties, military lands, and the telephone system.

Regarding piracy, the Chairman said the Chamber looks to the Government for more complete measures. The Chamber does not favour convoys and considers one of the first essentials an adequate number of naval patrols.

The only effective action that can be taken to stamp out this evil is by following the offenders, apprehending them in their native haunts and meting out exemplary punishment."

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

Harbour Patrol Launches.

Mr. D. G. M. Bernard presided, supported by the members of the Committee. The firms represented were as under:—

J. M. Alves & Co. (Mr. J. M. Alves), Arculli Bros. (Mr. V. Curraem), Arnold & Co., Ltd. (Mr. B. Monteith Webb), Messrs. W. S. Bailey & Co., Ltd. (Mr. W. S. Bailey), Bradley & Co., Ltd. (Mr. J. A. Plummer), British-American Tobacco Co. (China), Ltd. (Messrs. H. S. Parkinson and F. A. Perry), Brunner Mond & Co., Ltd. (Mr. C. F. Haslam), Butterfield & Swire (Mr. G. T. Edkins), Canadian Pacific S.S. Ltd. (Mr. L. E. H. Ryan), China & Japan Telephone & Electric Co., Ltd. (Mr. J. P. Sherry), Commercial Union Assurance Co., Ltd. (Mr. R. K. Hepburn), S. J. David & Co. (Mr. O. I. Ellis), Deacons (Mr. W. E. L. Shenton), Dodwell & Co., Ltd. (Mr. J. P. Warren), Dickson, Parker & Co., Ltd. (Mr. J. Norman Parker), Eastern Asbestos Co. (Mr. K. S. Morrison), Eastern Extension A. & C. Telegraph Co. (Mr. M. E. F. Airey), Fung Tang (Mr. Wong Tak-kwong), Gerin Drevard & Co. (Mr. E. C. Rossetti), Gibb, Livingston & Co., Ltd. (Mr. C. G. Mackie), Gilman & Co., Ltd. (Mr. C. Blaker), Goddard & Douglas (Capt. T. Arthur), T. M. Gregory & Co. (Mr. H. Gregory), T. E. Griffiths, Ltd. (Mr. P. A. Dixon), Handelsmaatschappij "Transmarina" (Mr. D. H. te Weelch), W. A. Hannibal & Co. (Mr. John Robertson), Holyoak, Massey & Co., Ltd. (Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak), Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. (Mr. J. Arnold), Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd. (Mr. F. R. Marsh), Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (Hon. Mr. A. G. Stephen), Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd. (Mr. R. M. Dyer), J. D. Hutchison & Co. (Messrs. T. E. Pearce and P. S. Cassidy), Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Mr. R. Sutherland), Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. (Mr. D. G. M. Bernard), Kailan Mining Administration (Mr. C. A. Peal), Kern & Co. (Mr. S. Kern), Lowe, Bingham & Matthews (Hon. Mr. A. R. Lowe), W. R. Loxley & Co. (Mr. D. Russell), Macdonald, Mackenzie & Co. (Mr. C. G. Mackie), J. Manners & Co., Ltd. (Mr. S. L. Hadden), A. F. Moulder & Co., Ltd. (Mr. Wong Ol-kut), Mr. A. G. da Rocha, J. M. da Rocha & Co. (Mr. J. M. da Rocha), Royal Insurance Co., Ltd. (Mr. W. L. Pattenden), Rudolf, Wolf & Kew (Messrs. C. H. W. Kew and A. E. Kew), David Sassoon & Co., Ltd. (Mr. R. L. GreenSmith), E. D. Sassoon & Co., Ltd. (Mr. F. Lobel), Shewan, Tomes & Co. (Mr. A. K. Shields), H. Skott & Co. (Mr. G. A. E. Wetton), De Sousa & Co., Ltd. (Mr. E. de Sousa), Mr. M. P. Talati, Harry Wicking & Co. (Mr. J. Owen Hughes), with the acting Secretary (Mr. M. F. Kay).

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—The Report of the General Committee and the Statement of Accounts have been in your hands for some days and you will have observed from them that the past year has called for a great deal of work on the part of your Committee. Sub-Committees and staff, to whom I tender my hearty thanks for their loyal support during my year of office. To the Shipping Sub-Committee especially, I am indebted for their careful consideration of and expert views on matters of the greatest importance to the trade of the Colony, particularly the questions of Piracy and Harbour Improvements.

The correspondence between the Chamber and the Government in connection with Piracy is dealt with in the Committee's Report. I think, however, that the most recent incident, namely, the piracy of one of the public ferries operating between Hongkong and Kowloon, which was seized and taken from the centre of the Harbour shortly after dark, calls for comment. On more than one occasion the Chamber has urged the need for an increase in Harbour patrols in connection with the question of piracy and as long ago as January 11, 1921, we wrote to the Government:—

"It is notoriously a fact that the night launches employed by the Harbour Police are slow and that there are not sufficient of them on duty at one time. So much is this so that the return of the Patrol-boat can be accurately estimated by those seeking to avoid detection. Particularly is this so by night and it is suggested that a couple of fast motorboats, occasionally running with lights out, would very quickly result in the capture of craft on the move, without just cause."

Since the date of that letter, three launches have been added to the Water Police service, but, on the other hand, one of the old ones has been discarded, thus making the net gain only two. These are both eleven knot boats, completed in 1923. Apart from the four launches which cruise outside the Harbour, and the shallow-draft motor boat on the river at Sun-chun, there are five launches and two motor boats working in the Harbour—three launches on patrol, one on general patrol and one in reserve. Arrangements have now been made for the launches to work across the Harbour from North to South, instead of up and down from East to West, so as to control the exits more completely. Nevertheless, it is a question which I hope the Government will consider as to whether the patrol service I have described is adequate for so extensive an area as the Harbour, comprising as it does, ten square miles, and in which are plying innumerable small craft of all descriptions. In my opinion, the ingenuity and industry of the private communications under no more even more necessary to day. It should be made impossible for them to communicate with the Harbour at any rate with impunity.

Convoys and Piracy.

Turning now to the Regulations under the Piracy Prevention Ordinance, the Chamber responded to the request of the Government by giving its views on the draft Regulations; but whilst it is to be clearly understood that it does not regard the Ordinance, with its provision of grilles, guards, extensive and expensive alterations to construction of existing vessels, as the final word in the fight against piracy. The Chamber regards it only as a measure which, if carried out as far as is reasonably practicable, will serve to minimize the danger.

We are confident that the shipping companies and the officers on board the vessels are ready and willing to co-operate to the utmost with the Government, in putting into effect measures designed to prevent piracy; but we look, with reason, to the Government for more complete measures to be taken in the danger zones outside the ships themselves.

Convoys, I may say, do not appeal to your Committee as a method which would fit in with the practical running of the various steamship companies owning vessels of differing speeds; nor does the Committee think it consistent with the dignity of the British Government, here and at home, that war conditions should be established in times of peace, in order to avoid piracy which could well be countered by other means. There is no doubt that conveying could be usefully employed to a certain extent, but it would not be practicable to place the whole of the shipping concerned under convoy orders.

Central Landing Stage.

In view of the fact that pirates generally embark as passengers, after surreptitiously conveying arms on board—sometimes possibly amongst the cargo—Mr. Sutherland has put forward a scheme for a central embarking and disembarking station for all passenger vessels trading with the Canton Delta. The Committee approves the idea in principle as a means of facilitating the work of the police in searching, intercepting opium and arms smugglers and other undesirable, besides aiding the public health service in times of epidemic. The proposal is one which cannot be adopted without due consideration of shipping conditions as a whole, or without due regard to the practical and economical working of the steamers concerned. These are factors which would need to be provided for in developing the scheme, and, if it can be made to detail into existing shipping organisations without injuring economic working, the proposal has much to commend it.

Naval Patrols Needed.

I may here say that we are not satisfied that more could not be done by the police at the present time in searching passengers, etc., and also in ferreting out the organisations which—judging from the way the attacks are carried out—appear to make their plans in Hongkong. The whole difficulty in putting an end to piracy lies in the fact that the pirates are able to take refuge in Chinese territory and there they are free from molestation. There is no new characteristic that has been developed—we find from the earliest days that there have been numbers of people along the waterways ready to become pirates when a suitable opportunity was presented with little risk attached. The only effective action that can be taken to stamp out this evil is by following the offenders, apprehending them in their native haunts and meting out exemplary punishment. (Applause.) Our views, therefore, are that to put an end to the present deplorable state of affairs it is necessary to round up the pirates on shore, and it was with this object in view, that the resolution, printed on page 5 of the report, was submitted to the meeting of the Associated Chambers in Shanghai last month. Next to this, the first essential is an adequate number of Naval patrols which will make the attacks more hazardous and thereby act as a deterrent.

Wireless Handicaps.

Questions connected with wireless development have occupied the attention of your Committee during the year from several aspects. It is satisfactory to know that practically all the Naval vessels on the China Station are now fitted with wireless, and we are indebted to Admiral Sir Arthur Leveson for the interest he has taken in this matter. But we have had occasion to comment on the fact that these vessels still have an inadequate wireless staff, which means that wireless communication cannot be maintained throughout the 24 hours—a severe handicap. Members will note with pleasure in regard to the continual interruption of the land lines to Canton, that the Commodore is prepared to sanction the transmission of private messages by Naval wireless, when the ordinary methods of communication have broken down, provided the messages are forwarded through the Chamber.

Going Ahead.

I am glad to note that since the arrival in the Colony of the Government's adviser on wireless questions—Mr. L. H. King—considerable improvements have been made at Cape D'Aguliar. A considerable quantity of the most up-to-date wireless gear has been ordered from home, and will be installed before the end of the year. Cape D'Aguliar will then be able to guarantee a radius of 1,000 miles, and probably a 2,000 miles radius will be attainable. Hongkong will then be in constant wireless communication with Manila, Singapore and Shanghai. At the present time the station is communicating with Canton, Kwong-chow-wan, and Swatow, and could handle double the amount of traffic now offering. New masts to replace those destroyed by typhoon last year are expected to be in position next May. Meanwhile, with two temporary 70 ft. masts, communication is being constantly maintained with stations and ships a very considerable distance away. It must be remembered that the distances at which communication is possible with steamers depend entirely on the power of the apparatus carried by the steamer. If the steamer's apparatus has a range of only 100 miles, the steamer is cut off from Cape D'Aguliar beyond that distance. Since January 1st the station has established communication with 33 ships at over 1,000 miles, 6 ships at over 1,250 miles, 1 ship at over 1,800 miles and 1 ship (the "Laconia") at over 2,000 miles.

With regard to broadcasting here, I understand that the issue of a licence has been definitely forbidden by the Imperial Government, pending the trial of arrangements as at present in force in Great Britain; but this question has recently been referred to the authorities at home in order to obtain, if possible, permission to deal with the situation locally.

Harbour Schemes.

Coming now to general questions concerning shipping, your Committee, on the invitation of the Government, devoted much time to the consideration of Harbour Improvements, arising out of the report by Sir Maurice Fitzmaurice. A very full account of these discussions was issued to the Press in October and I will not attempt a resume now. The typhoon of August 18th occurred whilst this matter was under consideration and the alarming risks to which shipping was subjected on that occasion led to the suggestion of the possibility of a wet dock from which it would not be necessary for ships to move, in typhoon weather; in preference to construction of the open type of wharves. As you know, the needs of the Port were very fully considered in the course of these discussions, which we hope will shortly be resumed and a definite policy for future development determined upon. One fact, I think, has emerged very clearly; namely, that the Harbour, which is vital to the development and progress of the Colony, should have an administrative department of its own, in common with other great world-ports, instead of being, in part, a branch of the Public Works Department.

Storm Signal Delay.

The improvement of the storm signal service has also received a great deal of attention. It has proved much more difficult than it should be to secure adequate interchange of messages between the Observatories of the Far East. We have urged, on many occasions, that the closest co-operation ought to exist in this matter between the Observatories of Hongkong and Zikawei, but the months go by and nothing seems to be done.

Sir Francis Aglen, Inspector General of the Chinese Customs, has kindly interested himself in the question of a Meteorological and Wireless Station on the Pratas Shoal and I am glad to say that he informs us that the Chinese Admiralty is prepared to install and man a suitable station. The Shoal, you will remember, is right in the track of typhoons coming across the China Sea, and the station will be of the utmost value in giving warning to Hongkong and the South Coast of China of the approach of a typhoon. It is to be sincerely hoped therefore that this scheme will be carried out at an early date. (Applause.)

Before leaving matters connected with shipping, I must express the regret that is felt at the enforced retirement, through ill-health, of the Harbour Master, Commander Beckwith. An expression of the Chamber's appreciation of his service was conveyed to him before he left the Colony. During the many years in which he has been connected with the Port he has done a great deal towards improving conditions in the Harbour, and it is gratifying that the Government accepted our suggestion to name after him the fog signal off Tathong Point which he was instrumental in establishing, and which will, therefore, remain as a permanent memorial of his work. He was also a great advocate of a powerful rescue tug for use in the harbour during typhoon weather and that we hope will be put in hand shortly. (Applause.)

In Commander Hake, now Acting Harbour Master, we have an officer with valuable local experience, who is well fitted to carry on the responsible duties which devolve upon him.

This seems a fitting place to mention that the foreign tonnage (exclusive of local junks and steam launches) which entered and cleared the port during 1923 amounted to 35 millions, as compared with 29½ millions, in round figures, in 1922. The increase amounts to 5,850,000 tons.

Hongkong's Trade.

In reviewing some of the principal features of local trade during 1923—which I will do very briefly—I have to acknowledge the courtesy of the Imports and Exports Department in permitting me to have access to figures and information not yet published. The total of imports and exports during 1923 was 123 million pounds sterling, as compared with 122 million pounds in 1922. Quantities may be taken as six per cent. better than these figures indicate. A fall in sterling exchange, as compared with 1922, marks an actual increase in trade somewhat larger than the sterling figures show. Total imports were about 62 millions, and exports 61 millions. In spite of the prolonged political strife, internecine warfare and generally lawless conditions in South China, Hongkong's trade with the neighbouring Provinces, has reached a total export of \$24,990,731, a figure which is curiously close to the total of 1922, namely \$24,914,072. The increase in 1923 amounts to some \$86,000.

There is a significant drop in the value of commodities exported by the railway. The total was only \$182,000, as compared with \$240,000 in 1922. This is explained by the fact that railway communication with China was seriously impeded, owing to the commandeering of trains by Chinese soldiery. The British section of the railway sent no express trains through Chinese territory for a total period of ten months during the year, and no slow trains during a total period of over five months.

Rice and Wheat.

Exports of rice in 1923 were not particularly brisk, but a fair business was done throughout the year. Prices, generally speaking, have risen, but exchange has been helpful in keeping costs at attractive rates to European and, more so, to American buyers. A fair trade was done with the West Indies, principally Cuban Ports, and to the West Coast of South America. North America, however, took less than the normal amount of broken for brewing purposes. Prices in Hongkong, in piculs, ranged from \$7.00 to \$8.50 for Garden Rice; \$6.30 to \$7.35 for Saigon Rice and \$5.35 to \$7.60 for unmilled Paking Browns.

Statements have been made that Hongkong's Rice Trade is being seriously affected by direct shipment from the exporting countries. However this may be, Hongkong imported over 20 million piculs of rice of all kinds during 1923, as compared with 18 millions in 1922 and 17 millions in 1921. Exports also show an increase.

Wheat flour imports have risen from 1,779,144 piculs in 1922 to 1,824,449 piculs in spite of reports that a great deal of the flour formerly transhipped in Hongkong is now shipped direct to outports.

Piece Goods.

As to Cotton Piece Goods and Fancy Cotton Goods, great changes have taken place in regard to the Fancy Trade. The old figured and Plain Poplin business appears to be at an end, considerable business in all kinds of Fancy Woollens having taken its place. The turnover in staples shows a substantial improvement on 1922.

(Continued on page 9.)

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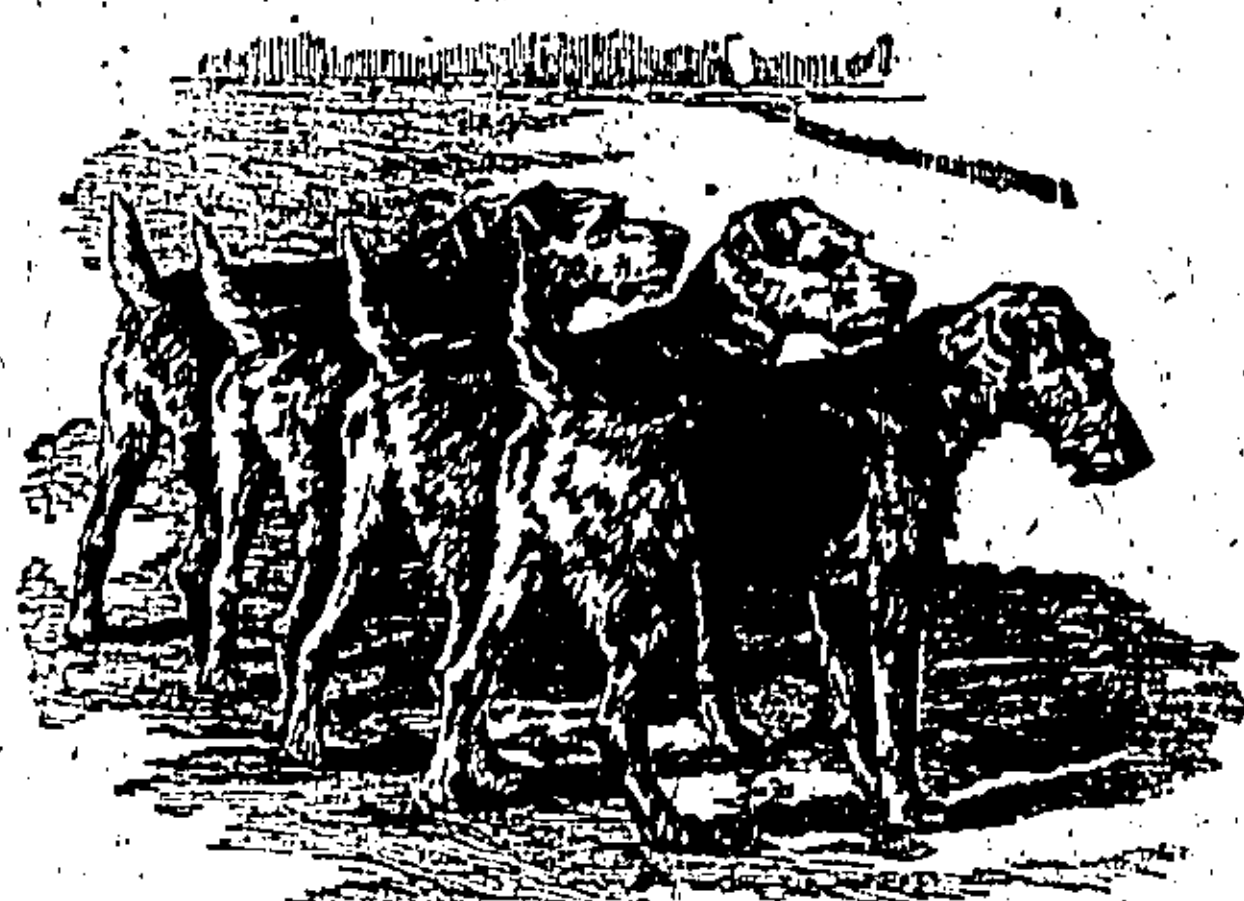
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Mme. Irene Curie, elder daughter of Mme. Marie Curie, the discoverer of radium, who has just been chosen by the French Government to assist her mother in further experiments.



Former Senator Allee Pomerene, of Ohio, who, with Silas H. Strawn, is investigating the Naval oil reserve leasing scandals.



Frau Adele Schreiber, first woman member of the Reichstag. She is a member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.



Photo by Central News.

Block by Nam Sun.

There was quite a retinue of children for Miss June Chaplin, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. R. Chaplin, at her wedding to Mr. Rudolph de Trafford, second son of Sir Humphrey and Lady de Trafford, which took place at St. James's, Spanish Palace. Our photograph shows the bride and bridegroom at the reception with the bridesmaids and child attendants.



George Kafandaris, Minister of the Interior of the Greek Cabinet, who was asked to form a new Cabinet. Owing to the insistence of his physicians Premier Venizelos has given up his post.



Mr. Arthur Henderson, Secretary for Home Affairs in the Labour Cabinet formed by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald.



Admiral Li Ting-hsin, head of the Navy in the Cabinet formed by Premier Sun Pao-chi. Admiral Ting-hsin has held the same post in a number of Cabinets.

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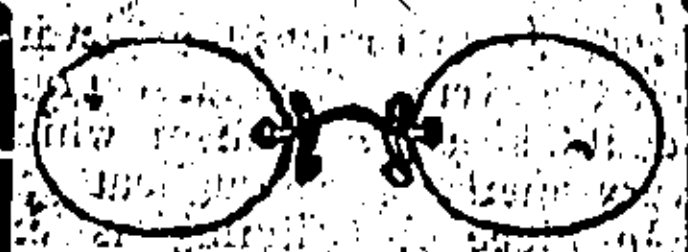
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